

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 1-2, 4, 7, 19-20, 22, 24-32, 46, 48, 55-58, 63, 66, 97, and 115; amend claims 65, 67, 81, 116-118; and add new claims 119-143 as shown below:

65. (Amended) A polypeptide comprising a reactable SCHAG amino acid sequence made according to a method comprising steps of:

(a) identifying a SCHAG amino acid sequence, wherein polypeptides comprising the SCHAG amino acid sequence are capable of forming ordered aggregates;

C1 (b) analyzing the SCHAG amino acid sequence to identify at least one amino acid residue in the sequence having an amino acid side chain that is exposed to the environment in an ordered aggregate of polypeptides that comprise the SCHAG amino acid sequence;

(c) modifying the SCHAG amino acid sequence by substituting an amino acid containing a reactive side chain for at least one amino acid identified according to step (b), thereby making a reactable SCHAG amino acid sequence; and

(d) making a polypeptide comprising the reactable SCHAG amino acid sequence.

67. (Amended) A polymer comprising polypeptide subunits coalesced into ordered aggregates, wherein at least one of the polypeptide subunits comprises a SCHAG amino acid sequence,

C2 wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence includes at least one substitution of an amino acid residue having a reactive amino acid side chain, and

wherein the reactive side chain of the substituted amino acid is exposed to the environment of the polymer to permit subsequent attachment of a substituent thereto.

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81. (Amended) A purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that includes a SCHAG amino acid sequence, wherein the amino acid sequence has two amino acid residues having selectively reactive amino acid side chains that are exposed to the environment and serve as selectively reactive sites in ordered aggregates of the polypeptide.

116. (Amended) A polypeptide comprising a SCHAG amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, and 50, or fragments thereof, with the proviso that at least one amino acid in the SCHAG amino acid sequence has been substituted for by an amino acid with a reactive side chain, said amino acid with reactive side chain selected from the group consisting of cysteine, lysine, tyrosine, glutamate, aspartate, and arginine, and wherein the polypeptide self-coalesces to form higher ordered aggregates in which the reactive side chain is exposed to the environment.

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117. (Amended) A polypeptide according to claim 116, wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 2, with the proviso that amino acid 184 of SEQ ID NO: 2 has been substituted for by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of cysteine, lysine, tyrosine, glutamate, aspartate, and arginine.

118. (Amended) A polypeptide according to claim 116, wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO: 2, with the proviso that amino acid 2 of SEQ ID NO: 2 has been substituted for by an amino acid selected from the group consisting of cysteine, lysine, tyrosine, glutamate, aspartate, and arginine.

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119. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 65, wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence comprises a prion-aggregation amino acid sequence.

120. (New) A filamentous polymer according to claim 67.

121. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 116, wherein the polypeptide self-coalesces to form fibrous higher ordered aggregates.

122. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 121, wherein the reactive side-chain is exposed to the environment in the fibrous higher ordered aggregates.

123. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 122, wherein the SCHAG amino acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 2, and the substituted amino acid is a cysteine or glutamate.

124. (New) A purified polypeptide comprising a SCHAG amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 2 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 2,

C5 wherein the polypeptide self-coalesces into higher ordered aggregates,

wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence comprises at least one substituted amino acid with a reactable side chain compared to amino acids 2 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 2, and

wherein the reactable side chain is exposed to the environment in the polypeptide aggregates.

125. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 124, wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence has exactly one of said amino acid with the reactive side chain.

126. (New) A purified polypeptide according to claim 124, wherein the substituted amino acid is a cysteine or a glutamate residue.

127. (New) A purified polypeptide according to claim 124, wherein the polypeptide comprises a SCHAG amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to amino acids 2 to 253 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

128. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 127, wherein the SCHAG amino acid sequence has exactly one of said amino acid with the reactive side chain.

129. (New) A purified polypeptide according to claim 127, wherein the substituted amino acid is a cysteine residue.

130. (New) A purified polypeptide according to claim 127, wherein the polypeptide has substantially the same fiber forming properties as a polypeptide comprising amino acids 2 to 253 of SEQ ID NO: 2, as assessed by electron microscopy of polypeptide aggregates, to assess fiber morphology, and congo red binding to assess fiber assembly kinetics.

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131. (New) A purified polypeptide according to claim 131, wherein the polypeptide further exhibits substantially the same secondary structure as a polypeptide comprising 2 to 253 of SEQ ID NO: 2, as assessed by circular dichroism measurements at 208 and 222 nm.

132. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 124 comprising an amino acid sequence identical to amino acids 2 to 113 of SEQ ID NO: 2, except for said substituted amino acid.

133. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 127 comprising an amino acid sequence identical to amino acids 2 to 253 of SEQ ID NO: 2, except for said substituted amino acid.

134. (New) A polymer comprising polypeptide subunits coalesced into ordered aggregates, wherein at least one of the polypeptide subunits comprises a polypeptide according to claim 124 or 127, and

wherein the reactive side chain of the substituted amino acid is exposed to the environment of the polymer to permit subsequent attachment of a substituent thereto.

135. (New) A polymer comprising comprising polypeptide subunits coalesced into ordered aggregates, wherein all of the polypeptide subunits comprise a polypeptide according to claim 124 or 127.

137. (New) A polymer according to claim 134 that has a fiber morphology.

138. (New) A polymer according to claim 137 attached to a solid support.

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139. (New) A fibrous polymer comprising polypeptide subunits coalesced into a fibrous aggregates, wherein at least one of the polypeptide subunits comprises a polypeptide according to any one of claims 65, 81, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 109, 110, 116, 117, or 118.

140. (New) A fibrous polymer according to claim 139, wherein the polymer is attached to a solid support.

141. (New) A polypeptide according to claim 65, wherein the identifying step comprises identifying a SCHAG amino acid sequence that is a prion aggregation domain.